

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06467 211647Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 /031 W
-----029468 211707Z /47

P 211641Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0409
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06467

USOECN, EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN MACHINE TOOLS TO ROMANIA

REF: STATE 140149

1. AS PER REFTTEL, EMBOFF CALLED UPON AMBASSADOR AT
LARGE KAREL COECKX AT FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRESENTED
POINTS IN PARA 7. COECKX IS IN CHARGE OF RELATIONS WITH
EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES AND IS ALSO PERMANENT CHAIRMAN
OF THE VARIOUS JOINT COMMISSIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL, ECONOMIC,
SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS WITH ALL BLOC COUNTRIES EXCEPT SOVIET
UNION.

2. AMBASSADOR COECKX STATED THAT NO DECISION HAD YET
BEEN MADE AS TO HOW TO INSTRUCT THE BELGIAN DELEGATION
AT PARIS COCOM MEETING CONCERNING ARTICLE 1091--THE
POSSIBILITY OF BECKAERT SELLING CERTAIN TYPES OF
MACHINE TOOLS TO ROMANIA--BUT THAT HE WAS IN THE PROCESS
OF MAKING THAT DECISION TODAY--JUNE 21--AND INSTRUCTIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06467 211647Z

WOULD BE GIVEN TO BELGIAN DELEGATION IN PARIS BEFORE
THURSDAY, JUNE 23.

3. COECKX STRESSED THAT THE SALE IS ONLY A POSSIBILITY
EVEN ASSUMING THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT REMOVES THE REGU-
LATORY OBSTACLE. FRANCE, JAPAN, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ARE ALSO POTENTIAL

SUPPLIERS AND WOULD BE SURE TO TRY TO MAKE THE SALE IF BELGIUM DOESN'T GET IT. HE ADDED THAT, GIVEN THE DIFFICULT STRAITS OF THE BELGIAN MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY AND OF BECKAERT IN PARTICULAR, WHICH HAS REQUIRED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE ALREADY, IT BECOMES VERY DIFFICULT TO SAY "NO, YOU MAY NOT DO IT" TO BECKAERT.

4. THE "ONLY QUESTION THAT MAKES HIM HESITATE" TO GO AHEAD WITH APPROVING THE REMOVAL OF OBSTACLES TO THIS SALE IS WHETHER ROMANIA IS FINANCIALLY CAPABLE OF BUYING THESE MACHINES WHICH WILL COST ABOUT 1.5 BILLION BELGIAN FRANCS. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF EASTERN BLOC ECONOMIES MAKES HIM WONDER ABOUT THIS AND SUSPECT THAT THE SALE MAY NOT TAKE PLACE IN ANY CASE.

5. AMBASSADOR COECKX REFERRED TO A MEETING HELD WITH BECKAERT EXPERT, BELGIAN GOVERNMENT EXPERTS AND EXPERTS SENT FROM U.S. TO DISCUSS THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THESE MACHINE TOOLS AND NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN "DIVERGENT VIEWS" EXPRESSED AT THIS MEETING. AMBASSADOR COECKX SAID THAT PARIS DELEGATION WOULD STRESS THAT IN BELGIUM'S CONSIDERED OPINION THESE MACHINE TOOLS WOULD HAVE "NO STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE WHATEVER" AND THAT THE MANUFACTURER WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE USE OF THE MACHINES.

6. HE BELIEVES THAT THERE IS "NO JURIDICAL BASIS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 06467 211647Z

COCOM"; THAT IT IS A "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" ONLY BUT NONETHELESS "BELGIUM WOULD LIKE TO STICK AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE TO THE SPIRIT OF THAT GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" AND HOW BEST TO DO THIS IS WHAT "HAS HAD HIM THINKING ALL DAY." CHAMBERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, TOOLS, PROPOSALS (BID), TRADE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE06467
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770221-0558
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770637/aaaabfyu.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b45a6479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 140149
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2087103
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN MACHINE TOOLS TO ROMANIA
TAGS: ESTC, BE, COCOM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b45a6479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009